

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03500 210403Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 L-03 DHA-02 ORM-02 VOE-00 SCSE-00

SCA-01 PPTE-00 SCCT-01 /029 W
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R 210216Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 498

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 3500

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS: PINS, IN, FJ, TW

SUBJ: ANANDA MARG: ELLEN MERKEL AKA ACHARYA MADHURII

REF: STATE 273541 AND WELLINGTON 3403

1. SUBJECT CALLED AT EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 19, 1975, ALONG WITH MARTIN TOBIAS (SEE WELLINGTON 3403) TO DISCUSS WITH AMBASSADOR AND CONOFF REASONS FOR HER VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND. SUBJECT STATED THAT SHE HAD SPECIFICALLY COME TO MAKE APOLOGIES TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT FOR THE ACTIONS OF THOSE MEMBERS OF ANANDA MARG WHO WERE CONVICTED OF CONSPIRING TO BLOW UP THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION. SUBJECT HAS HAD WIDESPREAD MEDIA COVERAGE BOTH IN NEWSPAPERS AND ON TV IN EFFORT TO EXPLAIN THAT THE ANANDA MARG MOVEMENT WAS PEACEFUL, AND THAT THE GROUP LEADERSHIP DISOWNED THE ACTIONS OF THOSE CONVICTED IN NEW ZEALAND AND HAD NOT AUTHORIZED OR HAD ANY FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THEIR ACTIONS. SUBJECT STATED THAT THE NEW ZEALAND INCIDENT WAS UNCHARACTERISTIC OF THE ANANDA MARG AND THAT IT WAS A PEACEFUL, SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION.

2. SUBJECT PUBLICALLY BLAMED THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN WELLINGTON FOR GIVING ERRONEOUS INFORMATION TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT THAT THE ANANDA MARG MEMBERS WERE REVOLUTIONARIES IN INDIA, AND THAT THE GROUP WAS RECEIVING TERRORIST TRAINING
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IN THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES IN FIJI.

3. THE RECENT ANANDA MARG COURT TRIAL, THE PRESENCE OF BOTH MARTIN TOBIAS AND SUBJECT IN NEW ZEALAND, AND THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER REGARDING THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES IN INDIA HAVE RESULTED IN UNPRECEDENTED SECURITY MEASURES TO PROTECT BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION WHILE THEY ARE CAMPAIGNING.

4. SUBJECT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN HER ATTEMPTS TO GAIN PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION, AND THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE. SHE WAS SUCCESSFUL, HOWEVER, IN GAINING PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AND STATED THAT SHE WAS PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS. SHE FELT THAT SHE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN MAKING HER APOLOGIES TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT SHE HAS CLARIFIED THE TRUE POSITION OF THE ANANDA MARG MOVEMENT.

5. MARTIN TOBIAS DEPARTED NEW ZEALAND ON NOVEMBER 20, 1975, FOR HONOLULU VIA FIJI, AND SUBJECT STATED THAT SHE WILL DEPART NEW ZEALAND

ON NOVEMBER 22, 1975, FOR TAIPEI.
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